



BNC ENGINEERING, LLC

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March 17, 2005

Rafael Casanova
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA
Superfund Division (6 SF-L)
1445 Ross Avenue Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

RE: Falcon Superfund Site

Dear Mr Casanova:

Based on the review by the EPA of the National Oil Recovery Corporation's Work Plan, Field Sampling Plan, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Project Plan and Safety and Health Plan and the meeting held at EPA Region 6 Headquarters in Dallas on March 4, 2005, and as suggested in your follow up letter to the March 4, 2005 meeting in Dallas, the following amendments to the referenced documents are proposed. This is by no means a complete list, however, it describes contemplated changes and serves to expedite the review process. The following team members Robert Chapin and Suda Arakere of Weston Solutions, Dr. Loren Raun of Rice University and Richard Bergner have reviewed the amendments and agree with the revised plan.

Described on Figure 1 are the new proposed sampling locations, which include judgmental sampling in the former Falcon Refinery process areas and probability-based sampling in the non-process area of the refinery ie., the wetlands and the barge dock site. The size and scope of the sampling have been increased to include areas that are: 1) not associated with the refining and storage portion of the former Falcon Refinery, 2) located in the adjacent wetlands and 3) within the barge docking facility. The proposed sampling locations are considered to be applicable to the initial phase of sampling and all detected concentrations will be delineated to whichever of the following four standards is the most relevant:

- EPA Region 6 Human Health Medium Specific Screening Levels and EPA Region 5 Medium Specific Ecological Screening Levels for COPC;
- Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) for the site;

§100



825799

all
ARARs

- Background concentrations; or
- National Primary Drinking Water Standards.

Federal
Ambient Water
Quality
Criteria
for
consumption &
ingestion

The proposed work plan will include 11 Areas of Concern (AOC), which are the North Site (AOC-1), South Site Process Areas (AOC-2 through AOC-6), South Site Non-Process Area (AOC-7), the adjacent wetlands (AOC-8 through AOC-10) and the Barge Docking Facility (AOC-11). Judgmental sampling will be utilized in AOC-1 through AOC-6 due to process knowledge, prior analytical data and known spills and releases. The remainder of the AOCs (7 through 11) will be sampled on a probability based design.

See Appendix

July 29?
for
wetlands

As discussed at the meeting in Region 6 headquarters, the on-site non-process area (AOC-7) was divided into five grids and from each grid five random sample locations were chosen using Visual Sampling Plan (VSP). Samples within each grid will be obtained from the five random locations and a composite sample will be prepared using EPA composite sampling protocol. The five composite samples will then be submitted for analysis. If sampling indicates that the applicable standard of the four listed above is exceeded then additional sampling will be performed.

Composite
for
each 5
non-process
area

The adjacent wetlands have been divided into three AOCs (8 through 10). Equal sized grids (within each AOC) were superimposed on top of the three adjacent wetlands sections and VSP was used to randomly select 20 sediment samples, five from AOC-8, five from AOC-9 and ten from AOC-10. No single grid was allowed to have more than one grab sample. The number of samples allocated to each wetland AOC was chosen based on total area of that portion of the wetland. If sampling indicates that the applicable standard of the four listed above is exceeded, then additional sampling will be performed.

July 29
for
wetlands

The barge docking site was put on a grid and VSP selected five random locations that will be sampled and a composite sample will be submitted for analysis. If sampling indicates that the applicable standard of the four listed above is exceeded, then additional sampling will be performed.

July 16
and?

The proposed format for the amended work plan will include a format similar to the MDI site.

Since the meeting in Dallas, NORCO personnel have interviewed Brenda Shedd and her son, the child that fell in the sink hole (Reference 10 from the HRS). The interview and subsequent data review were the subject of a letter (attached) from Richard Bergner to Gloria Moran. In summary, the source of the sink hole was a pipeline spill from a pipeline not owned by NORCO. Additionally, Reference 58 of the document record addresses a large spill in the wetlands that was caused by a pipeline release. The pipeline, as noted in the record, was owned at the time by ARM Refining and is currently owned by Plains Marketing. Documented spill(s) directly into the wetlands from pipelines not owned by NORCO have created a concern in distinguishing the source of any contamination that may be detected in the wetlands. This subject should be resolved prior to submitting the amended workplan.

Since the sink hole was not in the neighborhood, NORCO does not plan on sampling in the neighborhood during the initial phase of the workplan. If COCs are detected at the perimeter of the facility, adjacent to the neighborhood, then judgemental sampling will be performed in the neighborhood.

NORCO personnel investigated the "historical" wastewater discharge outfall point and did not find a pipe or any indication that any discharges occurred. We tried to contact the company that wrote the discharge permit, but they are no longer in business. As far as we can tell, the discharge point was permitted, but a pipe was never laid to that point and that portion of the bay was never used. As a result, sampling is not proposed for the area.

The area of the "historical" docking facility has not been controlled by NORCO for at least 20 years. Without control of the land, NORCO should not be held responsible for any spills that may have occurred since the sale of the property. As a result, sampling is not proposed for the area.

See
Attach A
Ref 5
at
our
comments

Where
is the
point
with
go?

All analytical samples will be analyzed in accordance with EPA/CLP analytical methods using OLM04.3, ILM05.3 and OLC03.2. All samples will be analyzed for volatiles, semi-volatiles and inorganics. Randomly selected samples will be obtained and analyzed for pesticides and PCBs.

A specific Seven Step Data Quality Objective portion has already been prepared and will be a part of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). 7.

References to TCEQ protective concentration limits will be replaced with (1) EPA Region 6 Human Health Medium Specific Screening Levels and (2) EPA Region 5 Medium Specific Ecological Screening Levels. 2.

General comments about proposed amendments include:

- Additional releases will be discussed in the workplan.
- Required Statements will be added to all documents.
- A draft preliminary site characterization report will be submitted.
- Maps including a topographic map and a larger highway map will be included.
- A walking water well survey has been performed and will be part of the workplan.
- Required changes to the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments will be made, including an amended Conceptual Site Model.
- The QAPP will be restructured and will include a Seven Step DQO section.
- Standard Operating Procedures will be referenced by title in the reports.

Name
Date
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Again, this is a partial list of proposed amendments, intended to address the substantive concerns raised by you and the Trustees. Please feel free to contact me concerning the proposed sampling plan or any of the issues discussed.

Sincerely,
BNC Engineering, LLC

Stephen Halasz
Project Coordinator

cc: Richard Bergner
cc: Robert Chapin, Weston Solutions
cc: Suda Arakere, Weston Solutions
cc: Loren Raun, Rice University